

John Martin Reservoir, Hasty, CO

Reestablishment of Boundary Fence and Grading a Main Access Road on South Shore

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District plans to develop a main access road and reconstruct the boundary fence on the south side of the John Martin Reservoir in order to improve public access and better manage natural resources. Currently there is a maze of primitive roadways throughout the south side area used by the public to access the reservoir. Fencing the boundary and constructing a main access road with spur roads leading to points along the shore would provide improved public safety and public access for recreation, support the enforcement of public laws and regulations and minimize impact to natural resources including protection and management of threatened and endangered bird species and archaeological sites. A single access point would benefit efforts in preventing the introduction of zebra and quagga mussels, two invasive species, by providing vessel inspection checkpoints for all vessels. These problem species pose a serious threat to taxpayer-funded and private facilities, and have recently been found in other Colorado reservoirs. Reestablishing our boundary fence would also prevent inadvertent trespass by the public onto adjacent private property.

The Corps plans to reconstruct approximately 4.5 miles of boundary fence on the south side of the reservoir, using three-strand smooth, wildlife friendly wire and steel posts. Use of smooth wire at a spacing recommended for wildlife would minimize impacts of a fence to medium-sized and large mammals. Any public safety issues regarding possible inundation of the fence would be addressed by the Corps. Buoys, signage and the temporary closure of areas are commonly used to protect the public from floating debris, submerged objects and other potential hazards, and would be used in a similar way should the reservoir level rise to the elevation of the fence. There have been four inundation events in the history of the project in which portions of the boundary fence were submerged.

If you need more information or would like to comment on our planned activities, please contact us by:

- **Completing a Comment Card**
- **Emailing Cynthia Piirto, Project Manager at cespa-od-1@usace.army.mil**
- **Writing to Cynthia Piirto, Project Manager, USACE, Albuquerque District, 4101 Jefferson Plaza NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109**

Please visit the Albuquerque District's website at www.spa.usace.army.mil and check out Hot News for updates on this project.